

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-05 ACDA-07
SSM-03 ARA-10 EUR-12 AID-05 MCT-01 /124 W
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R 071505Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9161
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14879

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, EG, SO
SUBJ: SOMALI SITUATION

1. IN MEETING TODAY WITH FAHMY'S CHEF DE CABINET, USAMA AL BAZ, HE SAID HE WISHED TO SHARE WITH US CONTENTS OF REPORT JUST RECEIVED FROM EGYPTIAN AMB IN MOGADISCIO. LATTER HAD SEEN PRES SIAD BARRE TWO DAYS EARLIER, I.E., IMMEDIATELY AFTER SIAD'S ARRIVAL FROM CAIRO. SAID HAD TOLD EGYPTIAN AMB SITUATION HAD DEVELOPED ADVERSELY DURING PERIOD OF HIS ABSENCE. IN ORDER TO REDRESS IT, IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED.

2. ACCORDING SIAD, ETHIOPIAN FORCES HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM ETHIOPIAN/SUDANESE BORDER AND ERITRAN FRONT AND REDEPLOYED TO OGADEN AREA. OBJECTIVE WAS TO ATTEMPT DRIVE WEDGE INTO SOMALI FRONT AND TO SEIZE NORTHERN SOMALIA, INCLUDING HARGEYSA. SAID ASSERTED HE EXPECTED SUCH A MASSIVE ATTACK WITHIN A WEEK. ETHIOPIANSHAD ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED 50 NEW MIG'S AND TWO HUNDRED TANKS FROM THE SOVIETS FOR THIS OFFENSIVE. THE ENTIRE
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CONCEPT HAD BEEN FORMULATED WITH THE SOVIETS AND SOME CUBANS AND ISRAELIS WHO HAD RECENTLY ARRIVED IN ETHIOPIA.

3. TO MEET THIS ANTICIPATED THREAT, SAID HAD ASKED FOR AN EGYPTIAN AIRLIFT OF FURTHER MILITARY SUPPLIES AND FOR SOME PILOTS. SOMALIA, SAID HAD ASSERTED, HAS LOST MOST OF ITS PILOTS, BUT STILL HAS SOME AIRCRAFT. SAID HAD ATTRIBUTED

HIS SITUATION TO THE "RETREAT OF THE WESTERN POWERS WHO HAVE NOT MADE GOOD ON PROMISES." THIS HAS ENCOURAGED SOVIETS AND ETHIOPIANS TO PROCEED.

4. ASKED WHAT EGYPTIAN RESPONSE WOULD BE, AL BAZ SAID REQUEST HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO GAMASY FOR CONSIDERATION. IN RESPONSE TO EARLIER SOMALI REQUEST, GAMASY HAD MADE CLEAR THAT EGYPT CANNOT CONTINUE TO SEND ARMS AND AMMO TO SOMALIA AND OTHER AFRICAN STATES. THEIR REQUIREMENTS ARE PERIPHERAL TO EGYPT'S OWN DIRECT SECURITY NEEDS. GAMASY HAD SUCCEEDED IN DISSUADING SADAT FROM RESPONDING TO SECOND SOMALI REQUEST AND FROM SENDING PILOTS. IN VIEW DESPERATE TONE OF LATEST SOMALI APPEAL, AND ESPECIALLY AFTER SAID'S MEETING WITH SADAT, HE THOUGHT THE PRESIDENT WILL BE ANXIOUS TO GIVE AT LEAST SOME POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THIS LATEST REQUEST. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, THE BALL IS IN GAMASY'S COURT.

5. ASKED IF HE HAD ANY INFO ON SADAT/SAID TALKS OF LAST WEEK, AL BAZ SAID HE DID NOT. ONLY THE PRESIDENT AND THE VP HAD BEEN PRESENT AND HE DID NOT THINK THAT SADAT HAD YET BEEN ABLE TO BRIEF FAHMY ON THE TALKS. IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT VP MUBARAK WILL VISIT MOGADISCIO ON HIS EIGHT COUNTRY TRIP AROUND AFRICA LATER THIS MONTH.
EILS

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